

# Congress of the United States

STACEY E. PLASKETT  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Virgin Islands Sargassum Removal project in fiscal year 2024. The intended public entity recipient is the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR), located at 4611 Tutu Park Mall, Suite 300, St. Thomas, VI 00802. The anticipated locations of the project are Christiansted Harbor in St. Croix, Charlotte Amalie Harbor in St. Thomas, sargassum-inundated Virgin Islands shorelines and beaches, and water intake zones in the territory. The requested funding would be used by DPNR to carry out industrial solutions or direct removal of harmful sargassum algal blooms in the territory. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will mitigate the negative impacts of sargassum blooms on local health, infrastructure, natural resources, and the tourism-based economy.

The project has a federal nexus because it is consistent with NOAA's mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress